

## CLAIMS

1. A process for preparing (R)-5-(2-aminopropyl)-2-methoxybenzene sulphonamide, characterised in that it starts from D-alanine and methoxybenzene via a Friedel-Crafts reaction.
- 5 2. The process for preparing (R)-5-(2-aminopropyl)-2-methoxybenzene sulphonamide according to claim 1 comprising the following steps:
  - a) protection of the amino group of D-alanine,
  - b) reaction of the obtained N-protected D-alanine with methoxybenzene to form the corresponding 4'-methoxy-2-amino protected propiophenone,
  - 10 c) complete reduction of the oxo-group of the formed 4'-methoxy-2-amino protected propiophenone to form the corresponding amino-protected 1-(4-methoxyphenyl)propane-2-amine,
  - d) chlorosulphonation of the obtained amino-protected 1-(4-methoxyphenyl) propane-2-amine and subsequent ammonolysis of the  
15 formed chlorosulphonyl group, and
  - e) deprotection of the amino group.
3. The process according to claim 2 wherein said protection in step (a) is carried out with ethyl trifluoroacetate.
4. The process according to claim 2 wherein a Lewis acid is added in step (b).
- 20 5. The process according to claim 4 wherein said Lewis acid is bismuth, titanium, iron (III) or aluminium salt.
6. The process according to any of claims 4 to 5 wherein said Lewis acid is iron (III) chloride.
7. The process according to any of claims 4 to 5 wherein said Lewis acid is  
25 aluminium chloride.
8. The process according to claim 2 wherein step (c) is carried out with triethylsilane as a reducing agent.

9. The process according to claim 2 wherein step (d) is carried out with chlorosulphonic acid as a chlorosulphonation agent.
10. The process according to claim 2 wherein the reagent for ammonolysis of the chlorosulphonyl group is an aqueous solution of ammonia.
- 5 11. The process according to claim 2 wherein deprotection in step (e) is carried out with potassium carbonate.
12. The process according to any of the previous claims comprising an additional step wherein tamsulosin is obtained after the o-ethoxyphenoxyethylation of the amino group of (R)-5-(2-aminopropyl)-2-methoxybenzene.
- 10 13. The process for preparing tamsulosin or tamsulosin hydrochloride comprising one or more of the steps (a) to (e) according to claims 1 to 11.
14. (R)-5-(2-aminopropyl)-2-methoxybenzenesulphonamide prepared according to any of claims 1 to 11.
- 15 15. Tamsulosin or tamsulosin hydrochloride prepared from (R)-5-(2-aminopropyl)-2-methoxybenzenesulphonamide obtained according to any of claims 1 to 11.
16. Use of (R)-5-(2-aminopropyl)-2-methoxybenzenesulphonamide for the synthesis of tamsulosin, characterised in that (R)-5-(2-aminopropyl)-2-methoxybenzenesulphonamide is prepared according to any of claims 1 to 20 11.
17. (R)-1-(4-methoxy-3-sulphamoylphenyl)-2-trifluoroacetylaminopropane.
18. (R)-1-(4-methoxy-3-sulphamoylphenyl)-2-trifluoroacetyl-amino-1-propanone.
19. A pharmaceutical formulation comprising tamsulosin or tamsulosin hydrochloride wherein tamsulosin is prepared from (R)-5-(2-aminopropyl)-2-methoxybenzenesulphonamide prepared according to any of claims 1 to 25 11.